

## DRAVIDIAN AND ALTAIC "DEER – ANTELOPE – BULL"

0. Lexical comparison of Dravidian and Altaic (at the early stage referring only to Mongolian) has produced parallels in a number of lexical classes (Vacek 1981), particularly in verbs (Vacek 1983, 1992 b,c; 1994; 1995, 1996b, 1998, 2000), and also in the sphere of basic vocabulary, which includes words for various natural phenomena (2001a,b; 2002). But so far the parallels have included only a few occasional references to living nature. Several words for animals or "living creatures" were mentioned, such as e.g. "dog" (Mo. *noxai*, Ta. *nāy*; Vacek 1981, 2.17), "mouse" (Mo. *xuluyan-a*, Ta. *eli*, Te. *eluka*; ibid. 2.11), though if presented in an isolated manner, these etymologies may not appear to be very satisfactory. A few etymologies of birds, viz. "crow" and "heron" (Vacek 2002, pp. 45ff.) have been discussed more recently, besides more general considerations of the problem of lexical evidence in linguistic comparison (particularly Vacek 1993, but cf. also some of the other more generally oriented papers – Vacek 1987a,b; 1996a). Some aspects of the Dravidian and Altaic comparison were raised already by K. H. Menges (1964, 1977), and (including also Uralian, Elamite and Japanese) more recently also by K. V. Zvelebíl (1990, 1991) <sup>1</sup>.

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1. However, the author should like to underline that he is rather reserved with regard to the historical interpretation of these linguistic similarities. As he has repeatedly said in his former publications (e.g. Vacek 1994, p. 2), he is more inclined to interpret the similarities in terms of an ancient contact in a linguistic area somewhere

In this paper five etyma related to the above-mentioned animal group are presented with some commentary on the formal and semantic variation. The evidence of these etyma seems to indicate that in varying natural and economic conditions of the respective milieus there was a fluid transition between the individual referents (i.e. animals) by way of various specialised semantic extensions corresponding to those conditions. All of the animals are the ones, which were closely connected with the life of human society at a certain stage of development, and thus it can be said that they are a part of the basic vocabulary of the respective languages. In some cases the referents also include various "forms" of sheep, which appears to constitute another semantic extension of the respective semantic field. Most of those cases, however, will be treated separately at a later time.

Formally, the comparison is based primarily on the first syllable, either VC- or CVC-. The derivative suffixes, or "root extensions" following immediately after the root (Vacek 2002, p. 42, with further references) may vary in the individual language branches. In some cases, however, we can see an agreement between both the root syllable and the second syllable. The phonetic correspondences agree with the formerly established phonetic correspondences (especially Vacek 1981, but also more subtle correspondences determined in 1998, 2000 and 2002). Some of the less obvious phonetic correspondences encountered in the following etyma are commented upon in the text.

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1.

Ta. *iralai* stag; kind of deer

Ka. *erale*, *erale* antelope, deer, incl., for example, the black and spotted antelope

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in Central Asia, from which all the respective languages could have inherited their common features. Similarly cf. Zvelebil 1990, p. 99ff.; 1991 (both with ample references). There is, however, a certain undeniable degree of relationship, but its extent will have to be established in the course of time. That the question is still open to discussion was also stressed by the author in his recent publication (Vacek 2002, p. 161).

Tu. *erale* antelope, deer

Te. (Inscr.) *iri* (pl. *irulu*), stag; *irri* antelope

Malt. *ilaru* the mouse deer [DEDR 476]

Note that the Tamil word appears already in Sangam (total number including inflected forms is 28x), from that Aka. has almost the half (13x)<sup>2</sup>.

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Mo. *irge* 1. castrated ram, wether

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MT.

IRKI deer, hart, stag (Evenk., Even.<sup>3</sup>) MTD I,327

IRGE II castrated ram; castrated bull, ox (Sol., Manchu) MTD I,326  
(both words borrowed from Mongolian according to MTD<sup>4</sup>)

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OT.

ERKEČ billy-goat OTD s. v.

2. It remains to be determined whether two other words (also found already in Sangam, cf. Lehmann, Malten 1992) could have a common basis with this etymon, viz.

Ta. *erutu* bull, ox, steer [DEDR 815, from Tamil to Kurukh] (Sangam 11x)

Ta. *erunai* female buffalo [DEDR 816, from Tamil to Gondi] (Sangam 39x)

Besides the formal agreement of the first syllable, the meaning seems to be a possible extension in the light of the other etyma having a similar variation of meanings.

3. The Ud. and Orok. words mentioned in this etymon have initial *s*:- Ud. *sigisa* roebuck; this form does not seem to belong to the same etymon. It can better be accommodated with DEBR 2504 in No. 3 below.

4. According to Novikova, 1972, 115, the Solon and Manchu words are borrowed from Mongolian. She further refers to OT. *irk* sheep after the fourth year, and to other Turkic words, Tur. *hirek*, Alt. *irk*, Tuv. *irt*, Kirg. *irik*. She derives the Mongolian word as follows: < \**irgen* < \**iregen* < \**ire-* + \**-gen*. She is of the opinion, that the Mongolian and Turkic lexemes developed from an older form \**hiregēn* (ibid. Note 68). For the suffix cf. also Turkic *-ge*: in various animal names, e.g. *çeklirge*: locust (Cl. 416).

*irk* ram: rare and prob. always with some more specific meaning like  
 "three-year-old ram" Cl. 220–21  
*erik* Hammel Räs. 173b

Further cf. e.g. Trkm. *ürü* ein verschnittener Widder, Hammel; Osm. *häräk*, *hiräk*; etc. (Räs. 173b).

Cf. also Kir. *üzük* (mentioned by Cl., *ibid.*, with a note: no doubt error for this word, vocalization uncertain) <sup>5</sup>.

2.

Ta. *uḷai* deer

Ma. *uḷa-mán*, *uḷal-mán* porcine deer

(Ka. *duppi* the spotted deer with branching horns)

Tu. *urè*, *ule*, *uḷe* deer

Pa. *uḷup* spotted deer [DEDR 694]<sup>6</sup>

The Tamil word occurs already in Sangam, e.g. Aka. 5x (Subramanian, s. v.), Kuru. 1x (Krishnambal, s. v.), but no occurrence in Aiñk. The Sangam total, however, cannot be ascertained from Lehmann, Malten (1992), because the word has also other meanings (e.g. place, side).

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Mo. *orungyu* a kind of small dark antelope with flat horns

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MT.

ORON deer, hart, stag MTD II, 24–5

5. In fact the phonetic shape (viz. the intervocalic sibilant) of this etymon would make a fitting Turkic correspondence with the Mongolian word. But I could not locate any further attested Turkic lexemes of this shape. The vocalization, which however is uncertain, would eventually also point to No. 2 below. For the sibilant-liquid correspondence in Turkic and Mongolian cf. Poppe 1960, pp. 73ff.

6. Some languages, like Kannada, have the forms *duppi*, *ḍuppi*, *luppi* etc. On the correspondence of Dravidian retroflex liquids to dental or alveolar liquids in Dravidian and Altaic, cf. Vacek 2002, pp. 32, 282ff.

Evenk. *orodī* deer-like

Even. *oran* deer (domestic)

Neg. *ojon* (\**oron*) id.

Oroč. *orə* id.

Ud. *olo, oro* id.

etc.

**URIKČĀN** elk (of two years) MTD II,285

Evenk. id.; Oroč. *uriča* id.

**URGEŠEN** deer (of one year) MTD II,284

Ma. id.

Cf. also

**ULUKUČĒN** elk MTD II,264

(Evenk., Neg., Ud.)

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No Old Turkic form could be located in my material. But cf.

Uig. *už* bull (in the 12-year cycle) Räs. 509b (s. v. *ud*)<sup>7</sup>

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7. Though the Turkic sibilant would be acceptable from the point of view of relations with the liquids in the other branches (cf. above Note 5), the sibilant seems to be also a part of a specifically Turkic set of phonetic correspondences with a dental stop and semivowel. Thus the Turkic etymon appears to be rather a part of another group of Altaic lexemes:

Mo. *udus* wild yak; buffalo

MT. *OTOJ* deer of 3 years (Evenk.) MTD II,28

Turkic:

Uig. *ud* Kuh, Rind; Uig., Chag. *ud*; Chag. etc. *uj* Ochs; Oir., Tuv. *uj* Kuh (Räs. 509b).

Given the experience with other etyma where "goat, sheep" also alternate with the meaning of "bull, ox, deer" etc., I am tempted to refer this group of words to Ta. *utał* ram, he-goat (TL: already in Tol. Porul. 602); TL adds: goat, sheep  
Ma. *utał* ram, goat [DEDR 610]

This, however, will have to be proved by a greater body of evidence, preferably from Dravidian.

3.

Ka. *jinke* antelope*cigari, cigare* black buck or antelope*jimke* deerTu. *jinkè* antelopeTe. *jinka* id. [DEDR 2504]

Cf. Pe. *hēker kuḍru* wild buffalo Burrow, Bhattacharya 1970, p. 232  
*(kuḍru* buffalo, cf. DEDR 2256)

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Mo. *zeger-e(n)* antelope<sup>8</sup>

Novikova (1972, p. 118ff.) puts this and the corresponding Turkic words into a group of appellatives motivated by colour: cf. Mo. *zeger-de* red, chestnut (e.g. horse), Turkic *jegren* gingery, red-haired (ibid. pp. 118 and 127, Note 152; Cl. 914: *yegren, çegren* chestnut). We could also add an OT. form (*JEPÛN* bright red, purple; *JEPIN* bright red, OTD s. vv.)<sup>9</sup> and a MT. parallel: cf. *Sl̥ARĪN* – yellow, brown, fallow (MTD II,90) for the respective MT. words below. Further cf. Ta. *cēku* redness; *cēkil* tawny-coloured bull (TL s. vv. and DEDR 1931)<sup>10</sup>.

8. This Mongolian word was borrowed into MT. and Turkic partly with a modern Mongolian pronunciation (e.g. the Ma. word):

Sol. *žigrē, žegerē* antelope

Ma. *žeren* roe (deer), goat (wild) s.v. MT. *ŽEGERĒ*, MTD I,282

But cf. also Ud. *želi* roe (deer), goat (wild) ibid.

Chag. *čiran* Gazelle Räs. 112a

9. The intervocalic labial in the last word represents the "correct" Turkic correspondence. In fact all the Altaic words for colour mentioned here seem to belong to one etymological nest including also the respective Dravidian counterpart in DEDR 1931 (redness, red colour, etc): *ce-*, *cek-*, *cevv-*, *cent-*, *civ-* etc. (plus the following Tamil word for redness).

10. Could the last Tamil word represent a contamination of a lost (?) Tamil lexeme not attested in DEDR 2504, and of the etymon DEDR 1931 (a complex etymon with the general meaning "red")?

Mo. *janggir* mountain goat (also: bald; without flesh – bones; without vegetation – mountains)

This word fits the broadly defined correspondence, though its further meanings may not fit (a homophone?). Novikova (1972, p. 129, Note 168) connects the bracketed meanings with MT. words for "bare, naked" (e.g. Evenk. *jaŋ*)<sup>11</sup>.

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MT.

SEGŽEN I deer MTD II,136

Evenk. id., variant: *sogžon* wild deer

*segserge*, *saksirgu*, *saksej* wild deer, two-year-old male; elk

*soyon* female of roebuck (cf. Mo. *soyu* female deer or maral)

Nan. *segži* herd (of wild pig)

Ud. *sigisa* roebuck s.v. IRGE II, MTD I,326

ČENEKŪ deer, hart, stag MTD II,421

Evenk., with further variants: *čonoku*, *čenek* wild deer (up to one year); domestic deer (two-year old)<sup>12</sup>

In MT. languages we can occasionally observe a variation of intervocalic labials and velars (further cf. also the following Turkic examples), which in this case can be documented by a lexeme obviously belonging to the same broad etymon:

ŽIPKE wild deer (male of five to six years) (Evenk.) MTD I,259

11. She further refers to the similarity with a Chinese word for "ram, sheep, billy-goat" (*yang*) and its borrowing into Korean.

12. The variant with a velar nasal is an important testimony of the existence of velar nasal in Altaic as a parallel with the Dravidian velar nasal plus stop, though in Evenki it has a different paradigm of variation with a dental nasal (develarisation?). For the variation of velar stop, nasal plus stop and nasal cf. Vacek 2002, p. 66, et passim.

- Further cf. MT. *IXŪN* bull (eight languages) MTD I,299<sup>13</sup>  
*IGDAKAE* (wild) deer (Ud.) MTD I,296  
*IKTĒNE* deer (Evenk., Neg., Orok.) MTD I,301  
*EŋNEKĒN* deer calf. (Evenk., Even., Neg.) MTD II,457

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# OT.

In Turkic we can find two forms – one with an intervocalic velar as in the above languages, and one with an intervocalic labial (eventually a loss of the initial sibilant). Though there is a semantic shift, the forms with the intervocalic labial would appear to be the genuine Turkic forms<sup>14</sup>, while the forms with intervocalic velar seem to have more in common with the Mongolian and MT etyma<sup>15</sup>.

## Forms with intervocalic labial:

Middle Turkic *sip* dreijähriges Füllen Räs. 423a  
 a one-year-old colt Cl. 783

Clauson adds that the word survives in SW:

Az., Osm. *sipa* a donkey colt from six months to a year

He further quotes Kip. *sipa*: (ibid.).

Further cf. the forms with a loss of the initial sibilant (with intervocalic labial or velar):

13. A number of the MT. etyma display a loss of the initial sibilant similar with South Dravidian, though e.g. Poppe does not speak about the phenomenon in these terms (cf. also the examples quoted by Poppe 1964, p. 32–3, for a reconstructed \**ji-*). For the loss of initial sibilant cf. Vacek 2002, p. 176, 179.

14. E.g. cf. the following parallels: (1) Mo. *xayaly-a(n)* gate, door; OT. *kapiğ* door, gate (Cl. 583); Chuv. *xapxa* gate (Egorov, 286); (2) Mo. *xuyur* stringed musical instrument played with a bow; OT. *kopuz* a stringed instrument of the guitar type, but no doubt used for several varieties of instrument (Cl. 588–9); Chuv. *kupās* violin (Egorov 118); (3) Mo. *köges'u(n)* foam, froth, spume, suds; OT. *köpük* froth, foam (Cl. 689); Chuv. *käpük* foam (Egorov 100). Further cf. Vacek 2002, p. 67.

15. Novikova (1972, p. 127) also considers these forms to have been borrowed from Mongolian. She further recalls the older views (ibid. Note 154) of A. M. Shcherbak (1961) and P. Pelliot (1926) that the whole group of words with intervocalic velar was borrowed from Persian.



OT. <i>ivik</i> the female gazelle	Cl. 8
Soj. <i>ivi</i> deer	Räs. 175a
Middle Turkic <i>yvyk</i> Gazelle	Räs. 168b
Yakut <i>iktänä, üktänä</i> male deer (of three to four years) MTD 1,301 (s.v. <i>IKTĒNE</i> )	

The forms with an intervocalic velar include e.g.:

OT. <i>si:ğun</i> the male maral deer	Cl. 811-12
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According to Clauson (ibid. p. 811), "there are some odd occurrences with a rounded vowel in the first syllable."

Osm. *siğin* elk

Tkm. *su:ğun* stag, etc. Cl. 811

Osm. *syğun, suğun* Maral; etc. Räs. 415a

Chag. *sojyun, soyun* Hirsch Räs. 425b

Further cf.

OT. *siğir* a large bovine, perhaps a generic term Cl. 814

Middle Turkic *syğyr* Kuh, Ochs

Uzb. *sigir* (Gabain); Kaz. *syjyr*; Protobulg. *fegorъ*, etc. Räs. 414b<sup>16</sup>

There are also Turkic forms with *-a-* in the first syllable and a following intervocalic labial:

Kipchak *savan, savun* chèvre sauvage, antilope<sup>17</sup> Räs. 425b-426a

16. There is an OT. word *IKTŪ* I domestic animal (OTD. s. v.; Cl. p. 102: *iktü*: a stall-fed animal), which might be taken as a form with lost initial sibilant (cf. above Note 13). However, Clauson's explanation relates the etymon to words designating "feeding" and therefore the word is not included into the above etymological nest. Similarly it is questionable whether the words for "cow" (OT. *İŋĀK* I, OTD s. v.) and for "female camel" (*İŋĀN*, OTD s. v.; Mo. *ingge(n)* id.) have any relation to this group of words.

17. Spelled *şavun, şuvun* by Clauson, p. 812.

4.

Ta. *mūri* buffalo; ox, bullockMa. *mūri* bullock, oxKo. *mu:ry* untamed (of bullocks)Ka. *muri* bull, oxGo. *mura, mure, mūrā, mūrā, murri* cow [DEDR 5041]

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Mo. *birayu(n)* calf in its second year

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MT.

*MULKĀN* deer, elk MTD I,555(Evenk., Even., Neg. – with various specifications of age and status; with a reference to MT. *MULTA* herd of wild deer, wild deer; only Evenk., *ibid.*)Evenk. *boro* one-year-old calf (from Mongolian) Novikova, 117

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OT.

*BOZAFU, BUZAFU I, BUZAF* calf OTD. s. v.*buza:ǵu:* a calf; a very old word ending in *-ǵu:*<sup>18</sup>SE Turkic *mozay*, Chuv. *pǎru* etc. Cl. 391<sup>19</sup>

5.

Ta. *marai* sambar, Indian elk; bison, wild cow

18. According to Clauson (*ibid.*) it is "an early loanword into Mongolian as *bura'u*".

19. Novikova, *ibid.*, Note 92, quotes Poppe, who took the above Mongolian, MT. and Turkic words to be genetically related. The Dravidian etymon certainly fits the "paradigm" formally and to a certain extent also semantically. But cf. also Ta. *marai* young of sheep, horse, deer, etc., female of sheep, horse, deer, etc., sheep, deer (DEDR 4764) with further semantic variation in other Dravidian languages ("son", "daughter", "nephew" and the like). Further cf. Note 21 below.

Ka. *māre* a kind of deer

Go. *maramām* sambar

?Cf. Skt. *maruka-* a kind of deer [DEDR 4724] <sup>20</sup>

Cf. also

OTa. *maraiyā* wild cow (Aka. 1x, Subramanian, s. v.) [not in DEDR]

Indian elk (Kuru. 2x, Krishnambal, s. v.)

(Sangam total 7x)

*maraiyān* Indian elk (Kuru. 1x, Krishnambal

s. v.)

[not in DEDR]

(Sangam total 4x)

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Mo. *maral* maral, species of deer; Orion

The last parallel may seem isolated only to Dravidian and Mongolian, unless the following MT. word could be taken as a formal and partly also semantic parallel:

Manchu *maryan* young of wild goat or moschus (*Moschus Moschiferus* L.) MTD I,532 <sup>21</sup>

20. The Sanskrit word is referred to with a question mark in the DEDR, but it seems there is no plausible alternative explanation of its origin, especially in the light of the Mongolian parallel. Mayrhofer does not seem to accept the possibility. KEWA s. v. says: "Nicht befriedigend erklärt." EWA s. v. says: "Nicht genügend erklärt." Can an extra-Indian parallel with Dravidian be a sufficient reason to take this word as Dravidian and Altaic, and therefore a potential source of the Indo-Aryan lexeme?

21. The Manchu word can, however, be related to Orok *balayya* young of seal (MTD I,69 refers the word to OT. *bala* young of animals or birds; OTD s.v.; Cl. 332; Räs. 59b). For that cf. further

Mo. *balcir* infant, baby, suckling, newborn young

OT. *baldiz* a man's wife's younger sister (Cl. 334)

*baldir* 1 (hapax leg.) step-son (or foster-child?; Cl. 333; further cf. Räs. 60b)

There can, however, be authentic Turkic words with medial *-š-* corresponding to medial *-l-* in the above group of words:

Chag. *bašmak* ein einjähriges Kalb

Kaz. *bašpak* id.

Chuv. *pušmak* two-year old heifer (Räs. 65a)

Isolated parallels do occur occasionally with some Dravidian and Altaic etyma, but the formal and semantic agreement of the above Dravidian and Mongolian lexemes seems to be more than coincidental.

### Conclusion

The few lexemes quoted above add to the number of possible Dravidian and Altaic parallels proposed previously. They are qualitatively different from the earlier listed parallels (e.g. verbs), but they display some of the phonetic variations, which have been recently described in my study of "water" (Vacek 2002), for which, however, the sum of the lexical items in the above list is not sufficiently great (there are some "lacunae" in the respective correspondences). Most of the referents appear to be very close to the "economic activities" of early man, and thus they naturally represent a significant sample of the linguistic reflection of the early natural environment. Still, the proposed etymological nests are to be taken as preliminary and it is obvious that they will have to be tested on further lexical material from both Dravidian and Altaic. Their arrangement and structure, both formal and semantic, may be further refined, particularly with

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The variation of initial homorganic nasals and stops, particularly dental and labial, is an established phenomenon in some of the Altaic, and also Dravidian etyma, and therefore the words with initial *p-* and *m-* can be put into one etymon.

On the other hand, all the above Altaic words designating the "young" may also be referred to several Dravidian etyma, with which they may constitute *another separate etymon* designating "the young of animals, birds and humans":

Ta. *pārppu* fledgling, young of birds, young of tortoise etc., young of quadrupeds

*pārval* fledgling, young of deer and other animals

Ma. *pārppu* shoal of young fish, small fry

Ma. *pāpa* small child; *pāra* boy; etc. [DEDR 4095]

[Ta. *pōra* silly, a glutton?]

Ka. *pōra* child, little boy, etc., etc.

Go. *pori* young of pig; *pori* chicken [DEDR 4095]

Ta. *maṛi* young of sheep, horse, deer, etc., female of sheep, horse, deer, etc., sheep, deer

To. *mary* young of animals (except buffaloes) and birds

etc., etc. up to Pe. *mazi* son, Br. *mār* son, boy, lad [DEDR 4764]

regard to the various semantic extensions in all the individual language branches<sup>22</sup>. And they will have to be followed by more detailed studies of this type, which will particularly include some of the further words for "sheep" and "goat" in relation to livestock in general.

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22. The "fluidity" of some of the forms and of their meanings has to be understood as a result of mutual interaction of the respective languages during the generation-long development in a linguistic area of Central Asia and Siberia not only in the attested period of historical times, but also in the deeper past. The external history of this contact situation, particularly in prehistory, will probably be only guessed from indirect evidence in the same way as in case of the prehistoric development of the Indo-European languages.

23. The abbreviations of languages used here are those commonly used in the respective branches of Altaic and Dravidian and may be found in the quoted dictionaries. The lexical material is mainly drawn from these dictionaries. All the dictionaries are quoted in the end of the listed etyma. For Mongolian the only source is Lessing's dictionary, in which the words are easy to locate, and thus it does not have to be specifically quoted.

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